

Remarks

1. Claim Status

Claims 1-10 and 12-38 remain pending with claims 1, 16, 26, and 34 being independent

2. Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 recites a network interface that initiates DMA (Direct Memory Access) transfer of statistics metering operation of the network interface. As amended, claim 1 further recites that the circuitry initiates the DMA transfer based on data specifying a time interval.

The Office Action rejected claim 1 as obvious in view of Boucher (U.S. 6,434,620). Boucher describes a request/response system where statistics are transmitted in response to a UPR (Utility Processor Request) (col. 56, lines 18-33). That is, in response to a given UPR, the INIC will transfer a set of statistics.

The Office Action suggests combining Waldbusser ("Introduction to the Remote Monitoring (RMON) family of MIB modules) with Boucher. However, Applicant disagrees that such a combination would yield the subject matter recited by claim 1.

Waldbusser describes a MIB (Management Information Base) that stores data in different objects and groups of objects. One such group of objects is the tpmAggregateReportGroups group. The data stored in the tpmAggregateReportGroups can cover a time period for a specified interval. However, the time period covered by a report is simply not the same thing as "a time interval to perform a direct memory access transfer". That is, the time period that the statistical data represents is different

than the mechanism (e.g., Boucher's UPR request) used to deliver the data. Thus, even if Boucher were to implement the Waldbusser MIB, this would still not yield the subject matter recited by claim 1.

As such, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims. Independent claims 16, 26, and 34 also recite a "time interval to perform a direct memory access transfer". For at least the reasons above, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16, 26, and 34 and their corresponding dependent claims as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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